

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 19-23 are pending in this application with claims 1-3 and 19 being independent. Claims 1 and 19-23 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 8, line 15 to page 9, lines 7 and at Fig. 1. No new matter has been introduced.

Initially, applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 2-6, 8-12 and 21-22.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 19, 20 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Utsugi (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,391) in view of Tokimoto (U.S. Patent No. EP Patent App. Pub. 1,204,087). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 19, 20 and 23 because neither Utsugi, Tokimoto, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests, at least, first to n-th current supply lines that are configured to supply current to the first to n-th light-emitting layers via the first to n-th pixel electrodes, as recited by amended independent claims 1 and 19 and similarly recited by allowed independent claims 2 and 3.

Utsugi discloses an organic electroluminescent (EL) element in which three light-emitting layers (22a, 22b, and 22c) are stacked between four electrodes (42a, 42b, 42c, and 42d). See Utsugi at Fig. 5. Electrodes 42a and 42c are connected to the positive terminal of an electric power supply 43 and electrodes 42b and 42d are connected to the negative terminal of the same electric power supply 43. See Utsugi at col. 7, lines 6-11; Fig. 5. More specifically, Utsugi does not disclose individual current supply lines that are configured to supply current to the three light-emitting layers (22a, 22b, and 22c). Therefore, Utsugi does not describe or suggest first to n-th current supply lines that are configured to supply current to the first to n-th light-emitting layers via the first to n-th pixel electrodes, as recited by amended independent claims 1 and 19.

Tokimoto does not remedy the failure of Utsugi to describe the noted feature of amended independent claims 1 and 19, nor does the Office Action contend that Tokimoto does so. Tokimoto discloses a pixel lamp 10 including six red light-emitting diodes (LEDs) 11, three green LEDs 12, and three blue LEDs 13. See Tokimoto at [0035]; Fig. 1. Each group of LEDs is connected to a constant-current driver 21, 22, and 23, respectively. See Tokimoto at [0036]; Fig. 1. Therefore, the pixel lamp 10 of Tokimoto may activate all of the red LEDs, all of the green LEDs, or all of the blue LEDs in sequence. See Tokimoto at [0039]. However, the pixel lamp 10 of Tokimoto can not selectively activate a single LED within a group of identically colored LEDs because all of the identically colored LED share the same constant-current driver. See Tokimoto at Fig. 1. Therefore, Tokimoto does not describe or suggest first to n-th current supply lines that are configured to supply current to the first to n-th light-emitting layers via the first to n-th pixel electrodes, as recited by amended independent claims 1 and 19.

For at least these reasons, applicants requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 19 and dependent claims 20 and 23.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

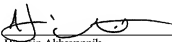
It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The fee in the amount of \$120 for the one-month extension of time is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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